GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:75
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
INTER- LINKING OF RIVERS
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on inter-linking of rivers is not gaining momentum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of efforts being made by the Government for its completion; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.+75 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2006 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The Interlinking of rivers (ILR) programme has been duly included in the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Govt. which envisages that the Govt. will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the southern rivers in a fully consultative manner. A power point presentation was made by MOWR before the Hon`ble Prime Minister on October 11,2004 in which the Union Minister of Finance, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Member, Planning Commission and Principal Secretary to PM were present among others. After above presentation and comprehensive assessment of feasibility of interlinking of rivers in the country, it was decided to continue programme of ILR with focus on Peninsular Component.

(c) All the reports prepared by NWDA are circulated to concerned State Govts. The State Govt. officers are invariably invited to all the important meetings e.g. Annual General Meeting of NWDA Society, Governing Body ,Technical Advisory Committee etc. A group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) has been constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and preparation of detailed project report by NWDA. Five peninsular links have been identified as priority links for consensus building between the concerned States. The Group has held seven meetings in respect of these 5 links, three for Ken-Betwa link, two for Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link, one for Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link and one for Par-Tapi-Narmada & Damanganga-Pinjal links. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link viz. Ken - Betwa under Peninsular Component has been taken up by NWDA after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Govt. of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005. The States of MP and Rajasthan have also agreed in principle for the preparation of DPR of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link.

(d) The implementation of inter basin water transfer proposals depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States.